(a) whether Government have ordered the Indian Army to retreat from the Siachen Glacier with a view to demilitarizing Siachen;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether this demilitarization is a token of India's confidence building measure towards Pakistan and China;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that Indian Army is of the view that leaving Siachen Glacier undefended amounts to foregoing a strategic advantage from a military point of view; and

(f) if so, the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) There is no decision taken to pull out tropps from Siachen Glacier.

Declaration of Languages as Classical

2308. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to declare Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam as classical languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Representations have been received to declare Telugu and Kannada as Classical Languages. However, no such demand has been received in respect of Malayalam language. Representations, so received, are referred to the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted by the Ministry of Culture.

Constitution of Himalayan State Council

†2309. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are contemplating to constitute Himalayan State Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many States are to be included in this Council;

(c) whether consent of all the proposed Himalayan States has been obtained in this regard; and

(d) if so, the nams of those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cases registered under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

2310. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases different type registered under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 the during the year of 2002, 2003, 2004 in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Balia and Meerut district;

(b) the details of the main complainants and defendants of 100 such cases registered;

(c) number of cases which went to courts during 2002,2003, 2004;

(d) number of such cases which have been disposed of by court till now; the number of cases registered and number of acquitals; and

(e) number of such cases in which there have been correction (punishment and and number of cases pending in the court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKARAO GAVIT): (a) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, 2997,1128 and 1264 cases of crime against SCs and STs were registered under SC/ST(POA) Act in Uttar Pradesh during 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively. 14, 3 and 6 and 57, 32 and 47 cases were registered in Balia and Meerut respectively during the same period.